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April 22, 2020

Dear Allen Temple Members,

As many of you are aware, on Monday April 20<sup>th</sup>, Georgia Governor Brian Kemp announced that certain establishments in our State could begin resuming normal operations as soon as Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. Over the last several weeks we have seen the severity of this COVID-19 Pandemic and its disproportionate impact on communities of color. In addition, we have seen the number of cases in Georgia steadily increase, even following the governor's announcement. For these reasons, the governor's decision appears premature and ill-advised. **Therefore, we will NOT resume in-person activities at Allen Temple at this time.**

We will continue to meet virtually for worship and Bible Study. Please know that I am closely monitoring this situation with an eye toward resuming our normal activities as soon as it is safely possible. When it is safe to resume normal activities, we will respond accordingly. However, now is not that time. In times like these, it becomes incumbent upon each of us to exercise sound judgment and reason with regards to our own households and affairs. I encourage you to please continue social distancing, handwashing, wearing masks, and exercising all precautions. Unfortunately, we are living in an age of misinformation from the highest levels. Thus, I encourage you to follow the advice of **medical professionals**.

We must remain vigilant and steadfast during these times, a part of the solution and not a part of the problem. Let us continue to be in prayer for those affected by COVID-19 to include essential workers and our frontline medical personnel. Let's continue to stay connected, check on one another, and we will soon resume our normal fellowship.

Yours in Christ,

*Jeffery B. Cooper, II*

Rev. Jeffery B. Cooper, II  
Senior Pastor